

# Disaster

## A Deaf/Hard of Hearing's Guide for Emergency Preparedness



## Knowledge Saves Lives

Abilene / Taylor County

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# Abilene/Taylor County

## What is Emergency Management?

Emergency Management is similar to a community insurance policy. We are tasked to assist the community in the mitigation of a preparation for, response to, and recovery from any natural or man-made disaster.

## What is the Threat to the Community?

The City of Abilene and Taylor County face many different types of hazards. Severe weather, including tornadoes, is # 1 on the list closely followed by hazardous materials which are manufactured, used, and transported throughout the area. Other hazards such as flooding, aircraft accidents, utility outages, terrorism, and radiological accidents can affect a large percentage of the community.

## What does Emergency Management do?

Emergency Management works with all kinds of agencies to help prepare the community for disasters. Some of the activities that Emergency management is involved in are: **Mitigation** – working with federal, state, local, and private agencies to reduce the various threats to the community, **Preparedness** – working closely with all City and County Departments to develop Emergency Plans, **Response** – warning the public using outdoor sirens, indoor alerting monitors, and cutting into the cable television signal to provide emergency information at the onset of a disaster, **Recovery**—help to bring together the various local, state, and federal assistance programs to make the recovery process less painful.

This guide has been developed to generate public awareness and will help to prepare you and your family so that you can be self-reliant for a 72-hour period following a major disaster. If you would like more information, contact the Emergency Management Resource at 325-676-6683 via TRS\* or VRS\*.

**READY.GOV**

From The U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Call 1-800-237-3239 for more information

Or go to [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) to learn about potential terrorist threats.

\*VRS: Video Relay Service for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing using sign language interpreters.

\*TRS: Telephone Relay Service for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing using traditional telephone by utilizing TTY/TDD.

# People with Disabilities

Creating a disaster preparedness plan that includes people with disabilities or special needs is not as complicated as you might think. By looking at all of the potential problems you might encounter and considering the needs of your plan members, you can develop an effective strategy for handling emergency situations. If you carefully think out the answers to the questions below, you'll help people with special needs successfully navigate an emergency.

## Who will be responsible for assisting the person with special needs?

When a disaster strikes, you'll have a lot of responsibility as the plan leader. If possible, designate someone else to be in charge of caring for, assisting and monitoring the person with special needs in your group.



## What mobility needs do you need to consider?



Is there any chance you'll have to evacuate to a shelter, another city or even out-of-state? You need to consider this possibility when you're making your emergency preparations. Plan for the mobility needs of the special needs person you're caring for. Does he/she require a special mode of transport? Do you have a collapsible wheelchair or spare crutches in your supplies? Is your primary vehicle the right choice to transport everyone—including the person with special needs—should you have to leave home?



# People with Disabilities

Continued . . .



## **Does a plan member have special medication needs?**

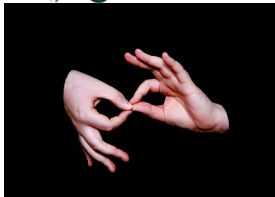
People with special needs may require routine medications as part of their daily treatment. Do you have a complete list of medications, dosages and times they should be taken? Do you have copies of prescriptions to show emergency/rescue personnel? Is there someone in your family or group who will monitor a dosage schedule and administer medications?

## **Are you prepared for a prolonged stay away from home?**

In a serious emergency, you might find your time away from home extended by weeks or even months, so you have to consider how you'll handle a prolonged evacuation period for a person with special needs. Where will you go? Are you aware of medical professionals in the area who can provide the special services required? Do you know where you'll fill prescriptions or restock the special supplies you might need? If you need dialysis treatments, do you know where facilities are located?



These are just some of the issues you'll need to consider when making emergency plans that include people with special needs.



**Regional Deafness Resource Specialist (325) 400-5782**  
**Regional Hearing Loss Resource Specialist (940) 264-4002**

**Need a sign language interpreter in your area?**  
**West Texas Services for the Deaf, (325) 669-4971**

**Location Awareness for Special Situations** — Assist law enforcement and emergency personnel with locational awareness and special situations: Call Abilene Police Department (325) 673-8331, speak to supervisor on duty for more information.

# **National Association of the Deaf on Emergency Communication Systems**

Emergencies happen across the country in various forms: hurricanes, tornados, floods, fires, terrorist attacks, and other natural and manmade disasters. In emergencies, up-to-date information is life-saving. **But too often, this information is not accessible to deaf and hard of hearing people.**

The time to prepare for an emergency is before it happens. Communication systems must be put in place in advance – before an emergency happens – to make sure deaf and hard of hearing people know about emergencies and how to respond. There is no “one” system that is best for alerting citizens in an emergency. Instead, emergency communication systems should be “redundant” – the message should be sent out to as many people and in as many formats as possible (by television, radio, phone/TTY, computer, cell phone, text messaging, pager, and other means). Some private companies and government agencies provide emergency alerts through e-mail systems and text messaging. These systems can offer quick transmission of critical information to people with the appropriate devices and updated contact information. Some communities have a system for the police department or other emergency notification agency to make emergency voice and TTY calls to inform people in a designated area. To see if your local government offers this type of emergency notification, contact your area NON-EMERGENCY police number.

State and local governments and emergency service providers may have planning committees, meetings, and training programs to help people prepare for emergencies. In most cases, these organizations are required to ensure effective communication with deaf and hard of hearing individuals by providing accommodations, such as qualified interpreters, CART, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids or services.

## **Local Deafness and Hearing Loss Resource Specialists**

The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) Resource Specialists program reaches out statewide to provide specialized services to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. It also assists agencies and other service providers to serve these consumers. Resource Specialists are a preparedness resource that can assist in identifying local providers to support the needs of this population.

Deafness and hearing loss specialists are the best resources for getting help with hearing loss, because they

- have the knowledge and communication ability to work with persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, and late-deafened,
- can assist local emergency management preparedness efforts by locating local deafness and hearing loss stakeholder groups and local vendors and agencies that provide resources to communicate with and support individuals with hearing loss, and
- provide services related to sensitivity training, communication strategies, and assistive technology.

**For contact information for your local specialist:**

**[dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/providers/specialists.asp](https://dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/providers/specialists.asp)**

# State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR)

Do you or anyone you know need some assistance during times of an emergency event? The state of Texas presents the STEAR program. The STEAR program is a free registry that provides local emergency planners and emergency responders with additional information on the needs in their community.

Texas communities use the registry information in different ways. Registering yourself in the STEAR registry DOES NOT guarantee that you will receive a specific service during an emergency. Available services will vary by community. For more information on how your community will use information in the STEAR registry, contact your local emergency management office.

## Who Should Register?

### People with Disabilities

#### People with access and functional needs such as:

- People who have limited mobility
- People who have communication barriers
- People who require additional medical assistance during an emergency event
- People who require transportation assistance
- People who require personal care assistance
- Additional Information

## How to Register

- **Register Online**  
at **[STEAR.dps.texas.gov](https://stear.dps.texas.gov)**
- Dial 2-1-1 or use your video telephone relay option of choice to contact 211 at 877-541-7905 (Texas Information Referral Network)

## Required Information to Register

- Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- Primary Language

## Additional questions asked to capture vital information for local emergency planners and responders

- Emergency Contact Information
- Caregiver Information
- Pets
- Transportation assistance for home evacuation
- Communication Barriers
- Disability, Functional or Medical Needs

Registration is **VOLUNTARY**

All of the information you provide will be kept **COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.**

Send printed or electronic forms to:

**Abilene Emergency Management Office**

**PO Box 60, Abilene, Texas 79604**

Individual assistance questions, please contact your local government emergency management coordinator for more information: (325) 676-6683

# City of Abilene CODERED Emergency Notification System

**\*To register, click on the CodeRED Emergency Notification logo on the main website: [Abilenetx.com](http://Abilenetx.com)**



In the case of an emergency or urgent notification, the City of Abilene has the capability to notify residents via the telephone through a warning system called CodeRED. The system is geographical-based and allows the City to alert citizens based on their location and telephone numbers. A pre-recorded message tells a live person or an answering machine about the specific situation and if any action is necessary.

## **How does CodeRED work?**

CodeRED delivers the message desired through a high-speed telephone calling system to a phone number registered in the system. City staff will select a “call area” and the phone numbers will be matched up electronically to the addresses. A pre-recorded message will be sent out via the telephone with information about the situation and instructions.

## **When will the CodeRED system be used?**

The system will be used when an emergency situation arises affecting the citizens of Abilene and Taylor County. Examples include but not limited to: a Silver/Amber Alert in Abilene, flooding in a specific area, chemical spill or hazardous waste problem, gas leak, or an evacuation notice. You will only receive a message if you are in the area impacted or it is a city-wide or county-wide notification. You will see the phone number 866-419-5000 on your caller ID.

## **Can I use the CODERED system if I am Deaf or have difficulty hearing.**

**Yes. You can select the TTY option and receive the message as text.**

## **How do I make sure that I am notified?**

Initially, the City/County will use telephone company records to create its notification list. However, residents should not assume they are in the system. You should register online, particularly if you have moved or changed your phone number in the last year or if you prefer to be contacted on your cell or business phone.

Registration is also available by calling 325-676-6525 via VRS\* or TRS\* during normal business hours **if you do not have internet.** You will need to provide your first and last name, physical street address (no P.O. Boxes), city, state, zip code, primary phone number and alternate phone numbers.

\*VRS: Video Relay Service for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing using sign language interpreters.

\*TRS: Telephone Relay Service for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing using traditional telephone by utilizing TTY/TDD.



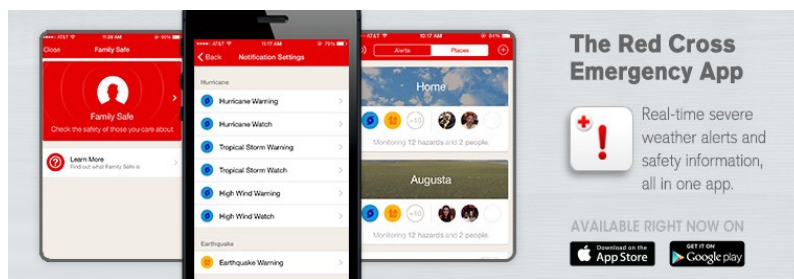
# Emergency Apps: Turn Your Phone into a Life-Saving Device!

Smart Phones can be more useful in an emergency situation.

## No Cell Service? No Electricity? Calling Family?

Most of these emergency apps are available for both the Android and iPhone. Many are free, but others can range in costs. These apps once downloaded do not need to be connected to the internet or have cell service to run them. Many are informational apps and will still be able to show you how to do CPR, act as a flashlight, or pull-up important documents as long as they have battery power. Keep your cell phone charged. Most of these apps are not ones you'll use every day. However, it's a good idea to go ahead and download them for when the unexpected happens.

## Emergency Apps can be found at App Store or Google Play:



ICE: In Case of Emergency

Emergency Planner Checklist

Disaster Readiness

SAS Survival Guide

StopDisaster

E-Food Storage

Winter Survival Kit

Earthquake

Hurricane

Tornado

Wildfire

Disaster Alert

Outbreaks Near Me

MapDroyd

Google Map

Find Friends

Google Sky Map

Back Country Navigator

GPS Grid Reference

MotionX GPS Drive

SPOT Connect

First Aid & CPR

Hands-Only CPR

GoToAID

iTriage

Pet First Aid

RepairPal: Auto Repair Expert

LACTMED

WISER

REMM

Shelter View

FEMA

!Emergency!

Life360

Social Alert

Facebook & Twitter

Local emergency center

National/Local TV News Stations

Underground Weather

ubAlert—Disaster Alert Network

Notepad

Calculator

Camera

Games

Dropbox

Flashlight

Gas Buddy

And more Emergency Apps ...



# Family Communication Plan

## Preparing a Family Communication Plan

Good family communication requires some degree of advanced preparation, basic steps, and logical thinking. This section will provide you with a format to use as an outline to start your own Family Communication Plan that will be tailor made for your family. This section will give you an idea of where to start when you begin developing your Family Communication Plan.

Consider the structure of your family. Do you have a traditional family structure with two parents, or are you a single parent? Is one of the parents out-of-town or are both here? Do you have extended family members that need to be included in your plan? Do you have pets that are considered family members?

Select a primary contact person for your family. The primary contact should be the person with the most stable schedule and least amount of out-of-town travel. A secondary contact should also be designated if the primary contact person is not available.

Identify individual family roles in preparation for an emergency situation. Determine who will perform the following duties on behalf of the entire family:

- ☐ Prepare a contact card for each family member.
- ☐ Identify a meeting place or meeting plan. Prepare and explain a meeting plan.
- ☐ Make arrangements to contact extended family members.
- ☐ Devise a plan to let neighbors know where you will be and how to contact you.

**Question:** Does the person you care for know what to do if you don't come home? Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so plan how you will contact one another and review what you will do in different situation.

# Family Emergency Plan

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. **Keep a copy of this plan** in your emergency essentials kit, or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster. Fill out the following information for each family member and keep it up to date.

Out-of-Town Contact Name:	Telephone Number:
E-mail:	Cell Phone Number:
Local Contact Name:	Telephone Number:
E-mail	Cell Phone Number:
Neighborhood Meeting Place:	Telephone Number:
Out-of-Town Meeting Place:	Telephone Number:

Name:	Social Security Number:	Date of Birth:
Important Medical Information:		
Name:	Social Security Number:	Date of Birth:
Important Medical Information:		
Name:	Social Security Number:	Date of Birth:
Important Medical Information:		
Name:	Social Security Number:	Date of Birth:
Important Medical Information:		
Name:	Social Security Number:	Date of Birth:
Important Medical Information:		

Every family member should carry a copy of this important information. This Card should be carried in your wallet or purse. Placing a card in your vehicle is a good idea also.

Write down where your family spends the most time: work, school and other places you frequent. Schools, daycare providers, workplaces and apartment buildings should all have site-specific emergency plans that you and your family need to know about.

<b>Work Location One</b>	<b>School Location One</b>
Address:	Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
Evacuation Location:	Evacuation Location:
<b>Work Location Two</b>	<b>School Location Two</b>
Address:	Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
Evacuation Location:	Evacuation Location:
Other place you frequent	Other place you frequent
Address:	Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:
Evacuation Location:	Evacuation Location:

Important Information	Name	Telephone Number	Policy Number
Doctor (s):			
Other:			
Pharmacist:			
Medical Insurance:			
Homeowners/Rental Insurance:			
Veterinarian/Kennel (for pets):			

# Dial 911 for Emergencies



# Practicing My Emergency Plan

Preparing your family for a disaster involves more than just creating a plan. Each family member—especially children—needs to know exactly what to do during an emergency. Here are some helpful suggestions to communicate the importance of disaster preparedness to your family.

**Designate Roles.** Give everyone in your family a responsibility. Allow them to feel as if they are an integral part in the plan and that they each have an important contribution to make.

**Role-play.** Younger family members are easily upset when they see a parent worried or panicking. Spend an afternoon pretending that an emergency has happened and allow everyone to practice their designated roles. This will help your family be better prepared for the rush of emotions that come during a disaster.

**Visit Emergency Meeting Places.** If you have chosen an emergency meeting place out-of-state, make certain your family is familiar with it. Help them recognize landmarks (i.e. buildings, signs, curiously shaped trees or other landmarks, etc.) that will remind them of where they are or where they should be going.

**Introduce Your Family to Emergency Contacts.** Young children may not be comfortable talking with strangers—even strangers that Mom and Dad designate as being safe. Introduce your children to your contacts, so they develop a level of comfort. It's also a good idea to have children learn to recognize safe authority figures (i.e. firemen, police officers, sheriff's deputies, etc.).

**Quiz Your Family.** Regularly quiz your family on your emergency preparedness plan. You can easily disguise preparedness as a game for younger children. *Who's our local emergency contact? Where do we go when there's an emergency? Who's responsible for watching the dog?*

**Point Out Emergency Essentials.** Be sure everybody in your family knows where your emergency essentials are located. Keep your emergency kit in one place—if you move it, let everybody know. This will help cut down on confusion during an emergency.

**Be Honest.** Everyone in your family will have questions about preparedness. Take the time to address questions, concerns and fears. Everyone will feel better if they know they are being dealt with honestly and are able to play a part in getting the family through the crisis.

## If you are not sure, ASK!

# Calling 911



## Call 9-1-1 for an emergency only!

During a widespread emergency, keep your television with Closed Captions on, tuned to local stations that normally broadcast emergency announcements for official information and instructions. Do not call 9-1-1 unless you have an emergency.

In the event of a telephone outage, go to the nearest fire station to report all emergencies.

If you need to report a utility outage, notify the appropriate utility company directly via VRS\* or TRS\*. Downed power lines should be reported to your local Fire Department.

Remember to remain calm when speaking to a 9-1-1 operator and do not hang up until instructed to do so.

**NOTE:** Make sure that you have a way to communicate that does not require electricity to operate. Many types of modern phones used today will not operate if the electricity goes out. This means that TTY/TDD or Videophone connected to Wi-Fi or a modem using electricity may be down.



\* VRS: Videophone Relay Service for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing using sign language interpreters.

\* TRS: Telephone Relay Service for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing using traditional telephone by utilizing TTY/TDD.



# EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

**Call your Emergency Management Office or American Red Cross Chapter via VRS\* or TRS\*.**

**Office of Emergency Management in Abilene: (325) 676-6683**

**American Red Cross Abilene Area: (325) 677-2622**

- Find out which disasters could occur in your area.
- Ask how to prepare for each disaster.
- Ask how you would be warned of an emergency.
- Learn your community's evacuation routes.
- Ask about special assistance for elderly or disabled persons.



## ALSO

- Ask your workplace about emergency plans.
- Learn about emergency plans for your children's school or day care center.



\*VRS: Videophone Relay Service for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing using sign language interpreters.

\*TRS: Telephone Relay Service for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing using traditional telephone by utilizing TTY/TDD.

# EMERGENCY PLAN CHECKLIST

## Create an Emergency Plan

- ☐ Meet with household members. Discuss with children the dangers of fire, severe weather, earthquakes and other emergencies.
- ☐ Discuss how to respond to each disaster that could occur.
- ☐ Discuss what to do about power outages and personal injuries.
- ☐ Draw a floor plan of your home. Mark two escape routes from each room.
- ☐ Learn how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at main switches.
- ☐ Post emergency telephone numbers near phones.
- ☐ Teach children how and when to call 911, police and fire.
- ☐ Instruct household members to turn on the radio for emergency information.
- ☐ Pick one out-of-state and one local friend or relative for family members to call if separated by disaster (it is often easier to call out-of-state than within the effected area).
- ☐ Teach children how to make long distance telephone calls.
- ☐ Pick **two** meeting places.
- ☐ A place near your home in case of fire.
- ☐ A place outside your neighborhood in case you cannot return home after a disaster.
- ☐ Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- ☐ Keep family records in a water and fire-proof container.

# HOME EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

## **Prepare a Disaster Supplies Kit.**

Assemble supplies you might need in an evacuation. Store them in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or duffel bag.

## **Include:**

- ❑ A supply of water (one gallon per person per day). Store water in sealed, unbreakable containers. Identify the storage date and replace every six months.
- ❑ A supply of non-perishable packaged or canned food and a non-electric can opener.
- ❑ A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes.
- ❑ Blankets or sleeping bags.
- ❑ A first aid kit and prescription medications.
- ❑ An extra pair of eye glasses.
- ❑ A battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- ❑ Credit cards and cash.
- ❑ An extra set of car keys.
- ❑ A list of family physicians.
- ❑ A list of important family information; the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers.
- ❑ Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.

# Your Home Safety Plan

## EMERGENCY CHECKLIST

## Emergency Supply Kit

The Taylor County Office of Emergency Management, the Abilene-Texas Health District, the Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) and the American Red Cross recommend that you keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. These supplies should be part of your family emergency supply kit and contain six basic elements including: water, food, first aid kit, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies, and specialist items. Keep these items that you would most likely need during a disaster in an easy-to-carry container. Suggested containers include a large plastic container, a camping backpack or a duffel bag.



# Water

Use bottled water or store tap water in plastic containers such as soft drink bottles. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as cardboard milk cartons or glass bottles.



**It is very important to thoroughly clean water bottles before re-use and to change stored water every six months.**

## CHECK LIST

- ❑ **Store one gallon of water per person per day (two quarts for drinking, two quarts for food preparation/sanitation.)**
- ❑ **Keep at least a three day supply for each person in your household.**

# Food

Store at least a three day supply of non-perishable foods. Select foods that require little or no water, and do not require refrigeration, preparation or cooking. If you must heat food, pack a can of cooking fuel. Select food items that are compact and lightweight.

**Choose foods that won't spoil easily. Also, don't forget baby food and formula for infants.**



## CHECK LIST

- ❑ **Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables.**
- ❑ **Canned juices, milk, soup (if powered, store extra water).**
- ❑ **Staples such as sugar, salt and pepper.**
- ❑ **High energy foods such as peanut butter, crackers, granola bars and trail mix.**
- ❑ **Vitamins and prescription medications.**
- ❑ **Foods for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets.**



# First Aid Kit

FEMA and the American Red Cross recommend the following items to include in your first aid kit. (Note: assemble a first aid kit for your home and car.)



**First aid kits are available at most drug/grocery stores or home improvement centers. Be sure that the kit you select is well equipped with sufficient supplies for the numbers of people in your household.**

**Note: Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications. Be sure they are stored to meet the instructions on the label and be mindful of expiration dates.**

**POISON CONTROL CENTER  
1-800-222-1222**

## CHECK LIST

- ☐ **First aid manual**
- ☐ **Sterile adhesive bandages in assorted sizes**
- ☐ **Assorted sizes of safety pins**
- ☐ **Antibiotic ointment**
- ☐ **Latex gloves (2 pairs)**
- ☐ **Petroleum jelly**
- ☐ **2-inch and 4-inch sterile gauze pads (4-6 each size)**
- ☐ **Triangular bandages (3)**
- ☐ **2-inch and 3-inch sterile roller bandages (3 rolls each)**
- ☐ **Cotton balls**
- ☐ **Scissors**
- ☐ **Tweezers**
- ☐ **Needle**
- ☐ **Moistened towelettes**
- ☐ **Antiseptic**
- ☐ **Thermometer**
- ☐ **Tongue depressor blades (2)**
- ☐ **Sunscreen**
- ☐ **Prescription drugs**
- ☐ **Cleansing agents (isopropyl alcohol, hydrogen peroxide)/soap/germicide**
- ☐ **Aspirin and non aspirin pain reliever**
- ☐ **Antacid**
- ☐ **Laxative**
- ☐ **Syrup of ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)**
- ☐ **Antidiarrheal medication**
- ☐ **Vitamins**
- ☐ **Extra pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses.**

# TOOLS AND SPECIALTY ITEMS

Make sure your supply kits contains basic tools and necessities that might prove to be extremely beneficial during an emergency.



**You never know when a wrench, plier, duct tape and other items may come in handy. It's best to be prepared for the unexpected.**



## CHECK LIST

- ☐ **Emergency preparedness manual**
- ☐ **Battery-operated radio, weather radio and extra batteries**
- ☐ **Flashlight and extra batteries**
- ☐ **Cash/coin or traveler's checks**
- ☐ **ABC type fire extinguisher**
- ☐ **Tube tent**
- ☐ **Duct Tape**
- ☐ **Scissors**
- ☐ **Compass**
- ☐ **Work Gloves**
- ☐ **Matches in waterproof container**
- ☐ **Aluminum foil**
- ☐ **Plastic Storage containers**
- ☐ **Signal flare**
- ☐ **Paper, pens, pencils**
- ☐ **Needles, thread**
- ☐ **Medicine dropper**
- ☐ **Wrench to turn off household gas/water**
- ☐ **Shovel**
- ☐ **Pliers and other hand tools**
- ☐ **Whistle**
- ☐ **Plastic sheeting**
- ☐ **Map of area**
- ☐ **Battery-operated travel alarm clock**

## CHECK LIST

- ❑ **Manual can opener**
- ❑ **Mess kits or paper cups, plates, and plastic utensils**
- ❑ **All-purpose knife**
- ❑ **Household liquid bleach to treat drinking water (16 drops of liquid bleach to 1 gallon of water, stir and let stand for 30 minutes)**
- ❑ **Sugar, salt, peppers**
- ❑ **Aluminum foil, plastic wrap**
- ❑ **Reseal-able plastic bags**
- ❑ **If food must be cooked, use a small cooking stove and a can of cooking fuel**

## Kitchen Items

It will be important to assemble these items in a disaster supplies kit in case you have to leave your home quickly. Even if you don't leave your home, should you lose power it will be easier to have these items already assembled and in one place.



## Specialty Items for Sanitation

Including personal hygiene products and supplies will help keep your living area sanitized. Don't overlook this area, and be sure to include adequate supplies for your household.



## CHECK LIST

- ❑ **Washcloth and towel**
- ❑ **Personal hygiene items and feminine supplies**
- ❑ **Plastic bucket with tight lid**
- ❑ **Disinfectant**
- ❑ **Soap, liquid detergent**
- ❑ **Toilet paper**
- ❑ **Household chlorine bleach**
- ❑ **Heavy-duty plastic garbage bags and ties (for personal sanitation uses)**

**Personal sanitation kits will help keep your living area sanitized.**

## CHECK LIST

- ☐ **Change of clothes**
- ☐ **Hat and gloves**
- ☐ **Blankets or sleeping bags**
- ☐ **Thermal underwear**
- ☐ **Pillows**
- ☐ **Rain gear**
- ☐ **Study work shoes or boots**
- ☐ **Extra socks and underwear**

## Clothing and Bedding

Include at least one change of clothing and footwear for each person in your household.



## Specialty Items for Baby



Supplies for small babies and children should not be forgotten. Assess your baby's age, as well as health and nourishment requirements when preparing your emergency supply kit.

## CHECK LIST

- ☐ **Formula**
- ☐ **Wipes (Note: Baby wipes are also good for personal cleaning)**
- ☐ **Diapers**
- ☐ **Bottles**
- ☐ **Baby food**
- ☐ **Medications**

## CHECK LIST

- ☐ **Heart and high blood pressure medications**
- ☐ **Insulins**
- ☐ **Prescription drugs**
- ☐ **Denture needs**
- ☐ **Contact lenses and supplies**
- ☐ **Extra eye glasses**
- ☐ **Special diet considerations**

## Specialty Items for Older Adults

Remember to include the items that older adult members of the family will need. Talk with your family members about their individual personal requirements to make sure those "must haves" are in your kit.





# Important Family Documents

Often these items get left behind, destroyed or damaged during a disaster. Keep your important records safe by making duplicates and putting them in an accessible place or portable waterproof container.

## CHECK LIST

- ☐ Will, insurance policies, contracts, deeds, stocks and bonds
- ☐ Passports, social security cards, immunization records
- ☐ Bank account numbers
- ☐ Credit card account numbers and companies
- ☐ Inventory of valuable household goods, important telephone numbers
- ☐ Family records (birth, marriage, death certificates.)



## CHECK LIST

- ☐ Games and books
- ☐ Pencils, pens and paper
- ☐ Crayon & coloring books

## Specialty Items for Entertainment

Beat boredom with cards, board games or battery-operated, handheld games to help pass time.

## Specialty Items for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people

- ☐ Store extra batteries for hearing aids and implants. If available, keep an extra hearing aid with your emergency supplies.
- ☐ Paper and pens (in case if interpreters are not available at that moment.)
- ☐ Pre-printed copy of key phrases such as “I speak American Sign Language (ASL) and need an ASL interpreter.





# Home Warning and Safety Devices

## Smoke Alarms

At least one visual smoke alarm should be installed on every level of your home and outside of sleeping areas. It's a good idea to have a smoke alarm in each bedroom, especially if you sleep with the door closed. Test the smoke alarm each month and replace the battery at least twice a year. Purchase smoke alarms labeled by the Underwriter's laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).



As of January 1, 2010, landlords of dwelling units in Texas, such as apartment complexes, will be required to purchase and install visual smoke alarms upon request for their deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind tenants. These visual smoke alarms must be installed in the bedroom where a deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind person will be sleeping. Landlords – SB 1715 Texas Law required. For more information on SB 1715, contact [disabilityrightstx.org](http://disabilityrightstx.org) or TX Apt. Association.

## Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors

There are numerous carbon monoxide (CO) fatalities annually, and many cases where people suffer flu-like symptoms from CO exposure. You can improve the chances that your family will survive a home CO leak by installing CO detectors and knowing what to do if they sound. CO detectors should be located near bedrooms.



# Fire Hazard Prevention Tips

Many fires can be avoided by following these helpful prevention tips. Review these suggestions with members of your household so that these types of hazards can be avoided.



## Safety Equipment

Having the proper safety equipment in your home is another way to keep your family safe.

## Fire Extinguishers

Portable home fire extinguishers can save lives and property by putting out small fires, or containing them until the fire department arrives. Install ABC type fire extinguishers in the home and teach family members how to use them. Make sure you keep extinguishers maintained and be mindful of expiration dates.

### CHECK LIST

- ☐ **Be safe when you cook. Never leave cooking unattended. Keep the stovetop clean and free of clutter. Ensure that countertop appliances and cords are in good working condition.**
- ☐ **Use candles safely. Never leave burning candles unattended.**
- ☐ **Remember the three foot rule!**
- ☐ **Place heat producing items at least three feet away from anything that can burn. Keep matches and lighters where children cannot reach them.**
- ☐ **Have a professional clean and inspect chimneys, flue pipes, vent connectors, and gas vents**

### CHECK LIST

- ☐ **Install at least one visual smoke alarm in each sleeping area in your home. Replace the battery on the visual smoke detector at least twice a year.**
- ☐ **Keep at least one fire extinguisher (standard ABC model) in your home. Maintain and recharge the extinguisher according to the manufacturer's instructions.**



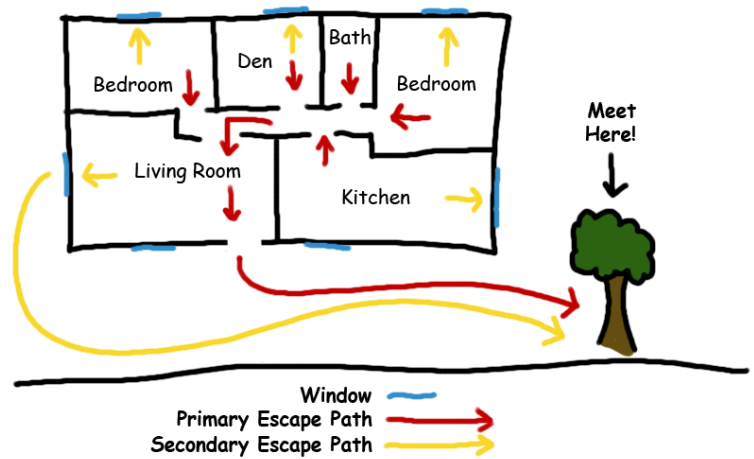
# Fire Evacuation Plan

Each year more than 4,000 Americans die and more than 25,000 are injured in fires, many of which could be prevented. To protect yourself and your family, it is important to develop an escape plan that will allow you and your family to get out quickly and safely. Preparing an evacuation plan can reduce fire deaths and help protect your family's safety.

## Escape Plan Tips

**Plan your escape:** Sit down with your entire family and plan your escape.

1. Draw a floor plan of your home.
2. Identify two ways out of every room.
3. Designate a place to meet once you and your family are outside.



**Practice your plan:** Practice escape plans at least twice a year, during the day and at night.



**Never open doors that are hot to the touch:** When you come to a closed door, use the back of your hand to feel the top of the door, the doorknob, and the crack between the door frame to make sure that fire is not on the other side. If it feels hot, use your secondary escape route.

**Security bars require special precautions:** Windows and doors with security bars must have quick release devices to allow them to be opened immediately in an emergency.

**Home escape ladders:** consider purchasing home escape ladders if your residence is a multi-level unit. Make sure everyone in the family practices how to use the ladders properly and knows where they are stored.

**Leave the house immediately:** When a fire occurs, do not waste time saving property. Take the safest exit route, but if you must escape through smoke, remember to crawl low, under the smoke and keep your mouth covered. The smoke contains toxic gases which can disorient you or, at worst, overcome you.

**Once out, stay out:** Remember to escape first, and then notify the fire department by dialing 9-1-1. Never go back inside a burning building.



# Identifying and Eliminating Hazards

## Electrical Hazard Prevention Tips



### CHECK LIST

- ☐ Replace frayed or cracked extension and appliance cords, prongs and plugs.
- ☐ Make sure there is only one plug per outlet. If extension cords are used, make sure they are Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) approved.
- ☐ Cover exposed outlets and wiring.
- ☐ Repair or replace appliances that overheat, short out, smoke or spark.

Homeowners should follow these simple steps to help prevent the loss of life and property resulting from electrical hazards.

## Chemical Hazard Prevention Tips



### CHECK LIST

- ☐ Store flammable liquids such as gasoline, acetone, benzene and lacquer thinner in approved safety cans away from sources of ignition.
- ☐ Keep combustible liquids such as paint thinner, kerosene, charcoal lighter fluid and turpentine away from heat sources.
- ☐ Store oily waster and polishing rags in covered metal cans.

Be aware of chemically hazardous materials in your home. Take inventory of potential chemical and hazardous substances. Learn how to contain and store them properly.



# Hazardous Materials

## Chemical Safety

From industrial chemicals and toxic waste to household detergents and cleaners, hazardous materials are part of our everyday lives. Hazardous Materials are substances that, because of their chemical nature, pose a potential risk to life, health, or property if they are released. Large quantities of these chemicals are produced, stored, used, and transported through our community on a daily basis.



Your local community has worked to ensure that local emergency responders have the tools and training to respond to a chemical emergency. Because hazardous materials pose a significant hazard to our community, it is important that **YOU** know what to do during a hazardous material incident.

## What to do During a Hazardous Materials Incident

1. If you see (or smell) a hazardous materials accident, call 9-1-1 as soon as safely possible. Make sure to move upwind of the accident area.
2. If you see a warning signal, watch television with captioned and/or signed for further news and instructions. Local emergency officials may ask you to evacuate or shelter-in-place. Act quickly and follow instructions carefully.
3. Stay away from the incident site to minimize the risk of exposure or contamination.

## Household Chemicals

Household chemicals can be just as dangerous as industrial chemicals. Always store and secure household chemicals away from children.

If an accident with household chemicals does occur,

**Call 9-1-1 or  
the Poison Control Center  
at 1-800-222-1222.**







# Biological or Chemical Threat

**A biological attack is the deliberate release of germs or other biological substances that can make you sick.**

Many agents must be inhaled, enter through a cut in the skin, or be eaten to make you sick. Some biological agents, such as anthrax, do not cause contagious diseases. Other can result in diseases you can catch from other people.

**A chemical attack is the deliberate release of toxic gas, liquid, or solid that can poison people and the environment.**

Signs of a possible chemical attack are many people suffering from watery eyes, twitching, choking, having troubles breathing or losing coordination. Many sick or dead birds, fish or small animals are also cause for suspicion.

**In the event of a possible release of a biological or chemical agent, protect yourself by covering your mouth and nose, move quickly away from the release site, wash with soap and water, and contact medical authorities.**



**Stay Alert for attack warning signs on local TV Stations!**





**A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges from which there is little or no immunity in the human population and the virus begins to cause serious illness and then spreads easily person-to-person worldwide.**

Due to the potential for a pandemic flu outbreak, people need to be **informed and prepared** about in the event that a pandemic flu outbreak occurs. By being prepared you can lessen the severity of the outbreak.

## **What You Can Do**

**Preparing for pandemic flu can reduce your chances of getting sick:**

- Practice good health habits: eat a balanced diet, exercise, get sufficient rest
- Get a seasonal flu shot
- Stay informed by watching to TV with closed captions, news stories and checking the web
- Have a family plan

**Use these common sense steps to help stop the spread of influenza germs:**

- Wash hands frequently using soap and water
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues
- Put used tissues in the trash and wash hands.
- Stay home and stay away from others when you are sick.
- Do not send sick children to school.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick

Prepare an emergency kit. Because everyday life may be different during pandemic flu and services could be disrupted, make sure you have an emergency preparedness kit.

Follow public health instructions concerning isolation and quarantine. Isolation is for people who are already sick. When someone is isolated, they are departed from people who are healthy. Having the sick person isolated (separated from others) can help to slow or stop the spread of disease. Quarantine is for people who have been exposed to the disease but are not sick. When someone is placed in quarantine, they are also separated from others.

## **What to do During a Pandemic Influenza Incident**

**In the event of a possible release of a biological or chemical agent, protect yourself by covering your mouth and nose, move quickly away from the release site, wash with soap and water, and contact medical authorities.**

**If you see a warning signal, watch television with captioned and/or signed for further news and instructions. Local emergency officials may ask you to evacuate or shelter-in-place. Act quickly and follow instructions carefully.**

**Stay away from the incident site to minimize the risk of exposure or contamination.**

# **Public Warning Capabilities**

## **Cable Television Cut-In**

When necessary, interrupt programming on most channels of the local cable network. This will be done to provide emergency information directly to viewers. This system would be used to notify the public of an emergency event and provide protective action information.

## **Emergency Alert System**

The Emergency Alert System (EAS) is another alert tool that can rapidly disseminate emergency information to the general public. It can be initiated by local, state, and federal officials. A national EAS alert may be activated during a national crisis, by the President of the United States. A local EAS alert may be activated in response to local events such as severe weather, floods, industrial accidents, civil disorders, or any event that poses a danger to life or property. The Amber Alert is part of the EAS system and is initiated by law enforcement. The EAS utilizes radio and television broadcasters to relay emergency information to citizens. These messages interrupt programming on local television and radio stations and provide viewers and listeners with warnings and instructions on how to react in the event of an emergency.

## **Emergency Notification System**

The Emergency Notification System (ENS) is another mass notification service available to emergency management officials. During an emergency or disaster, it enables emergency management officials to contact hundreds or thousands of affected individuals in a specific area within minutes because of its high-calling capacity and the accuracy of its geographic information system mapping and database. The ENS can be activated by designated emergency management officials of a city, county or other jurisdiction. An ENS message, which includes a warning and instructions for residents, is created and sent immediately to phone numbers in the area of an emergency. When citizens in the area receive the call or text, a message will give them important directions that may include evacuation, shelter-in-place, or other instructions.

## **Weather News**

Emergency Alert System (EAS) broadcasts may include warnings about weather and technological emergencies, including tornadoes, thunderstorms, toxic chemical spills, radiation emergencies, explosions and fires, and other disasters that require immediate public notification. When alerted, you should immediately move to shelter and watch television stations for emergency warning information.

## **Check weather reports on local TV Stations**

**(Be sure that TV Stations provide continuous news that will be captioned and/or signed.)**

# Shelter-In-Place

If an emergency involves the release of hazardous material, you may be forced to remain confined to your house, business or other facility. This is referred to as “shelter-in-place.” In many cases, shelter-in-place is the best defense against accidental exposure to the release of toxic chemicals or other types of hazardous materials. Local authorities have the responsibility to issue orders for shelter-in-place. You may receive the orders directly from Fire or Police officers, outdoor warning sirens, or local news media with captioned and/or signed.



## If asked to shelter-in-place:

- Close and lock windows and doors.
- Seal gaps under doorways and windows with wet towels and duct tape.
- Close fireplace dampers.
- Close-off nonessential rooms such as storage areas, laundry rooms and extra bedrooms.
- Turn off ventilation systems.

**Keep in mind, shelter-in-place is similar to the actions you would follow for a severe weather event.**



# Severe Weather Readiness

## What To Do Before Severe Weather Approaches

Thunderstorms are very common and affect the Big Country and Red River regions each year. Thunderstorms are very dangerous and can produce strong winds or tornadoes, lightning, hail, or flash flooding. Flooding is responsible for more fatalities, more than 140 annually, than any other thunderstorm associated hazard. By following a few simple guidelines, you can protect yourself and your family from the dangers of severe weather.



## Know the terminology

**Watches** are issued by the national Weather Service when tornadoes, severe thunderstorms or floods are possible in the area. Remain alert for approaching storms or floods. This is the time to remind family members where the safest places within your home are located and listen to the radio or television for further developments.

**Warnings** are issued when there have been actual sightings, reports or indications by weather radar that tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, or floods are actually occurring in the area.





# Tornadoes

Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can uproot trees, destroy buildings and turn harmless objects into deadly missiles. They can devastate a neighborhood in seconds.



## Tornado Facts

- A Tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.
- Tornadoes may appear transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- The average tornado moves SW to NE but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.
- The average forward speed is 30 mph but may vary from stationary to 70 mph with rotating winds that can reach 300 mph.
- Peak tornado season is March through June, but tornadoes can occur any time of the year if the

## Know what to do

Determine places to seek shelter. The best place to seek shelter is in a basement or storm shelter. If one is not available, use a small interior room of your home or business. Mobile homes and vehicles are not safe locations. Seek more substantial shelter or as a last resort, get into a ditch or low area and lie down covering your head with your arms.

Know the terms used to describe tornado threats:

- **Tornado Watch** — Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to television to know when warnings are issued.
- **Tornado Warning** — A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.



**Take shelter immediately.**

# Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms affect relatively small areas. Despite their small size, all thunderstorms are dangerous. The typical thunderstorm is 15 miles in diameter and lasts an average of 30 minutes.



## Thunderstorm Facts

- **A thunderstorm is classified as severe if it produces hail at least three-quarters of an inch in diameter, or has winds of 58 miles per hour or higher.**
- **When a thunderstorm approaches, secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage. Closed windows and outside doors.**
- **If you see thunder, you are inside the distance that lightning can strike.**
- **Seek Shelter Immediately.**

## Outdoor Activities

Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent. Coaches of outdoor sports teams should have a NOAA weather radio with S.A.M.E. (Specific Area Message Encoding) technology and tone/vibrating-alert features during practice sessions. Threatening weather can endanger athletes, staff, and spectators. Postponing activities is the best way to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.



# Lightning

Lightning occurs during all thunderstorms. Lightning results from the buildup and discharge of electrical energy between positively and negatively charge areas. When thunderstorms threaten, get inside a home or building. Stay away from metallic objects and fixtures.



## Lightning Facts

- Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.
- Lightning can occur from cloud-to-cloud, within a cloud, cloud-to-ground, or cloud-to-air.
- Lightning strike victims should be attended to immediately.
- Most lightning deaths and injuries occur when people are caught outdoors in the summer months during the afternoon and evening.
- “Heat Lightning” is actually lightning from a thunderstorm too far away for thunder to be heard.
- Follow safety tips to reduce your chance of being struck by lightning.

## Lightning Safety

Postpone outdoor activity if thunderstorms are likely. Go indoor immediately if after seeing lightning. Stay indoor for 30 minutes after feeling the last clap of thunder. Rubber-soled shoes and rubber tires provide NO protection from lightning. However, the steel frame of a hard-topped vehicle provides increased protection if you are not touching the metal.

**-If You Hear Thunder, Lightning Is Close Enough To Strike You!**

**-Move To A Substantial/Enclosed Building Or Enclosed Vehicle With Windows Up**

**-Stay Off Corded Electrical Equipment Avoid Plumbing (Sinks And Baths)**

**-Stay In Shelter At Least 30 Minutes After The Last Rumble Of Thunder**

**When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!**

A cartoon illustration of a lightning bolt striking a cloud. The cloud is dark grey and blue, with a yellow lightning bolt striking it from the left. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds.



# Hail Safety

## Never go outside during hail storm.

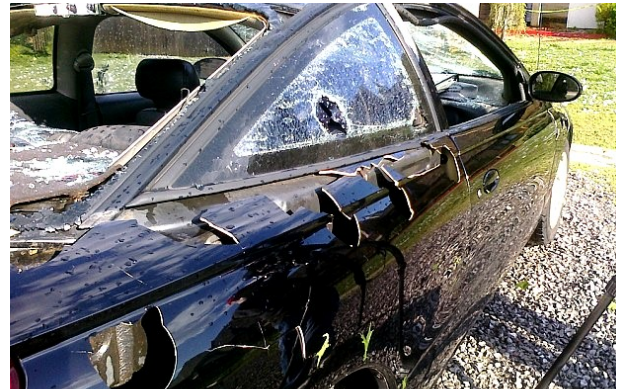
Imagine a baseball dropped from an airplane flying at 30,000 feet... imagine that baseball reaching speeds of 120 mph as it falls to the ground — and you are under it! There have been many cases of injury and even fatalities from hail storms.

A major hazard of thunderstorms in this area is damaging hail. The hail storm of June 12, 2014, caused more than \$400 million in damage in the Abilene area. Many people were treated for injuries. Offices in downtown Abilene had windows shattered. Many trees have been stripped of limbs down in the street.

Avoiding hail is difficult, however, parking vehicles in garages or under shelter before a storm approaches where you live, will minimize damages to vehicles. It is also a good idea to bring outdoor items such as potted plants, lawn furniture, and grills inside.

### Hail Facts

- Hail stones can be as small as a pea, or large than a softball.
- The presence of large hail indicates very strong updrafts and downdrafts within the thunderstorm. These are also possible indicators of tornadic activity.
- Large amounts of hail can cover roadways and create hazardous driving conditions.



# Flash Floods

Floods are one of the most common hazards in the U.S. Some floods develop slowly, sometimes over a period of days; however, flash floods can develop quickly, Sometimes in just a few minutes, and without any visible signs of rain.



Flash floods often have a dangerous wall of roaring water that carries a deadly cargo of rocks, mud and other debris and can sweep away most things in its path. Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially if you live in a low lying area, near water or downstream from a dam.



## Floods Facts

- **Be aware of flash flooding.** If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to high ground. **DO NOT** wait for instructions to move.
- **Be aware of streams, drainage channels, underpasses and other areas known to flood suddenly.** Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warning signs as rain clouds or heavy rain.
- **DO NOT** walk or drive into flooded areas. Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing loss of control and possible stalling. A foot of water will float many vehicles. Two feet of water can carry away most vehicles, including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pickups.
- **If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground, if you can do so safely. You and your vehicle can be quickly swept away as floodwaters rise.**
- **Look for Weather Alerts or Watch the television stations for local information.**



# Winter Storms and Extreme Cold



Heavy snowfall, ice storms, and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region. Even areas that normally experience mild winters can be hit with a major snowstorm or extreme cold. The impacts include flooding, close highways, blocked roads, downed power lines and hypothermia. You can protect yourself and your household from the many hazards of winter by **planning ahead**.



## What to do before Winter Storms

**Know the terms used by  
weather forecasters:**

**Freezing rain** — Rain that freezes when it hits the ground.

**Sleet** — Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground.

**Winter Storm Watch** — A winter storm is possible in your area.

**Winter Storm Warning** — A winter storm is occurring, or will soon occur in your area.

**Blizzard Warning** — Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 miles-per-hour or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing snow are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

**Frost/Freeze Warning** — Below freezing temperatures are expected.

- **Have emergency heating equipment and fuel (a gas fireplace or wood burning stove) so at least one room in your home can be heated. Kerosene heaters are another emergency heating option.**
- **Winterize your home to increase**

# What to do during a Winter Storm

Watch your television or check weather reports and emergency information. Eat regularly and drink ample fluids, but avoid caffeine and alcohol.

Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing. The outer garments should be tightly woven and weather repellent. Most body heat is lost through the top of the head, so it is important to wear a hat. Mittens provide better warmth than gloves. Cover your mouth with a scarf to protect your lungs.



Be careful when shoveling snow. Over-exertion can cause a heart attack, which is a major cause of death in the winter. If you must shovel snow, stretch before going outside and don't overexert yourself. Watch for signs of frostbites and/or hypothermia.

## Winter Driving

- **Winterize your car.** This should include a battery check, antifreeze, wipers and windshield washer fluid at a minimum.
- **During heaving snow considers snow tires, snow tires with studs, or chains.**
- **Keep your car's gas tank full.**
- **Carry a disaster supplies "winter car kit" in the trunk of your car.**
- **If you are trapped in your car during a snow storm:**
  1. **Pull off to the side of the road. Turn on hazard lights and hang distress flag from window.**
  2. **Remain in your vehicle.**
  3. **Only run the vehicle about ten minutes to keep warm. Open a window slightly to prevent being overcome by carbon monoxide poisoning.**
  4. **Wait for work crews or rescuers to find you.**

# Physical Plant Operation and Facility Management

## Emergency Response Actions

Unique operations at the plants, the potential exists for an emergency involving radiological and/or chemical hazards.

If you live or work within the 10-mile plant zone, local officials will use the Emergency Alerting System (EAS), weather alerting systems, and alerting sounds to inform you of many types of emergencies, including problems at the plants that may affect you. Problems at plants are unlikely, but you should be prepared to follow instructions and take protective actions that may include sheltering-in-place or evacuating.

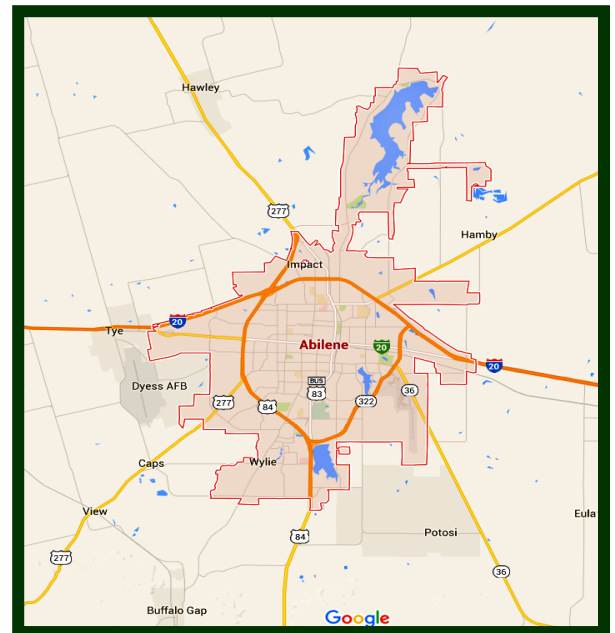
### **If you are advised to shelter-in-place:**

- Follow the shelter-in-place instructions listed in this guide.



### **If you are advised to evacuate:**

- Watch the television or check your smartphone for the instructions where to take an evacuation route. Follow local evacuation instructions. See the evacuation instructions listed in this guide.
- Take any medications, baby items, and important documents that you may need with you.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke until advised that is safe to do so.



# Evacuation Guideline

There may be conditions under which you will decide to get away or there may be situations when you are ordered to leave. Follow these guidelines for evacuation:

- Plan places where your family will meet, both within and outside of your immediate neighborhood. Use the Family Emergency Plan to decide these locations before a disaster.
- If you have a car, keep a full tank of gas in it if an evacuation seems likely. Keep a half tank of gas in it at all times in case of an unexpected need to evacuate. Gas stations may be closed during emergencies and unable to pump gas during power outages. Plan to take one car per family to reduce congestion and delay.
- Become familiar with alternate routes and other means of transportation out of your area. Choose several destinations in different directions so you have options in an emergency.
- Leave early enough to avoid being trapped by severe weather.
- Follow recommended evacuation routes. **Do not take shortcuts; they may be blocked.**
- Be alert for road hazards such as washed-out roads or bridges and downed power lines. Do not drive into flooded areas.
- If you do not have a car, plan how you will leave if you have to. Make arrangements with family, friends or your local government.
- Take your emergency supply kit unless you have reason to believe it has been contaminated.
- **Follow local evacuation instructions.**
- Take your pets with you, but understand that only service animals may be permitted in public shelters. Plan how you will care for your pets in an emergency.
- Call, text or email the out-of-state contact in your family communications plan. Tell them where you are going.
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going.
- Wear sturdy shoes and clothing that provides some protection such as long pants, long-sleeved shirts and a cap.
- Check with neighbors who may need a ride.



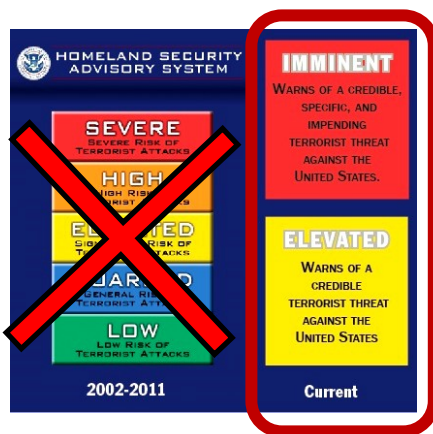


# NATIONAL TERRORISM ADVISORY SYSTEM

The National Terrorism Advisory System, or NTAS, replaced the color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) in April, 2011. The NTAS system effectively communicates information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

Homeland Security is no longer solely law enforcement's responsibility. It calls for a collaborative effort among citizens, corporations and the government. It recognizes that Americans all share responsibility for the nation's security, and should always be aware of the heightened risk of terrorist attack in the United States and what they should do.

After reviewing the available information, the Secretary of Homeland Security will decide, in coordination with other Federal entities, whether an NTAS Alert should be issued.



## Imminent Threat Alert

Warns of a credible, specific, and impending terrorist threat against the United States.

## Elevated Threat Alert

Warns of a credible terrorist threat against the United States.

NTAS Alerts will only be issued when credible information is available.

These alerts will include a clear statement that there is an imminent threat or elevated threat. Using available information, the alerts will provide a concise summary of the potential threat, information about actions being taken to ensure public safety, and recommended steps that individuals, communities, businesses and governments can take to help prevent, mitigate or respond to the threat.

The NTAS Alerts will be based on the nature of the threat: in some cases, alerts will be sent directly to law enforcement or affected areas of the private sector, while in others, alerts will be issued more broadly to the American people through both official and media channels.



For more information about Homeland Security, visit the following websites:

Department of Homeland Security:

[dhs.gov](http://dhs.gov)

NTAS: National Terrorism Advisory System:

[DHS.gov/alerts](http://DHS.gov/alerts)

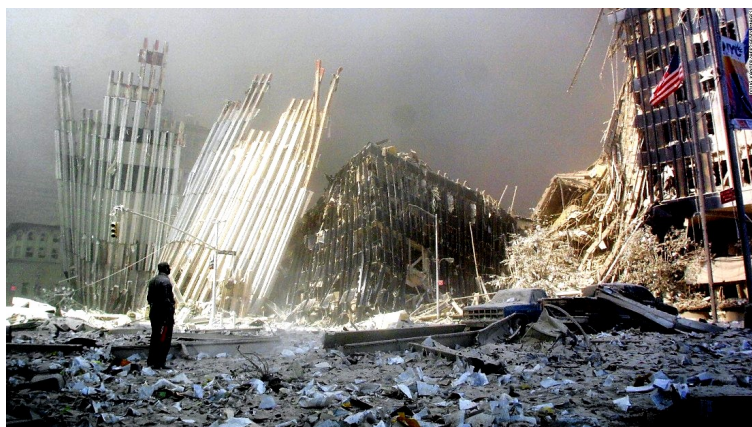
Texas Division of Emergency Management:

[txdps.state.tx.us/dem/index.htm](http://txdps.state.tx.us/dem/index.htm)



# TERRORISM

Devastating acts, such as the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Pentagon, Los Angeles International Airport, Boston Marathon and many places, have left many concerned about the possibility of future incidents in the United States and their potential impacts. They have raised uncertainty about what might happen next, increasing stress levels. Nevertheless, there are many things you can do to prepare for the unexpected and reduce the stress that you may feel should another emergency arose. Taking preparatory action can reassure you and your family that you can exert a measure of control even in the face of such events.



## Preparing for Terrorism

- Remain calm and be patient.
- Follow the advice of local emergency officials.
- Listen to local radio or television for news, captioned and/or signed, and instructions.
- If the disaster occurs near you, check for injuries. Give first aid and get help for seriously injured people.
- If the disaster occurs near your home, check for damage, fire, fire hazards, and other household hazards. Shut off any damaged utilities.
- Confine or secure pets.
- Call your family contacts.
- Check on your neighbors, especially those who are elderly or disabled.

## SAFETY FROM TERRORISM

- ❑ Be alert for suspicious activity.
- ❑ Notify authorities.
- ❑ Follow instructions.
- ❑ Don't add to the problem.
- ❑ Leave the area when instructed.
- ❑ Protect yourself.

## What you can do to prepare

1. Create an emergency Communications Plan (page 8 ).
2. Establish a meeting place (page 9-10 ).
3. Develop a Home Safety Plan (page 16 ).
4. Assemble an Emergency Supplies Kit (page 15 ).



# IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

City Services Website: [www.abilenetx.com](http://www.abilenetx.com)



## NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

(Area Code 325 on all listed phone numbers unless otherwise specified)

### **Police NON-Emergency 673-8331**

Animal Services	698-0085
Airport	676-6367
Building Inspections	676-6273
Call-for-Help	673-8211
City Link Bus	676-6287
Emergency Management	676-6683
Fire Administration	676-6676
Fire NON-Emergency	676-6434
Health	692-5600
Human Resources	676-6392
Municipal Court	676-6333
Parks and Recreation	676-6217
Rescue the Animals, SPCA	698-7722
Safety City	676-6097
Senior Citizens Division	734-5300
Senior Help Line	673-4694
Utility Billing	676-6405



**USE**



**VRS**

For VRS users,  
make calls through  
your Video Relay  
Service provider.



**Dial 7-1-1**

For TTY/TDD  
users, dial 7-1-1  
to make calls.

# IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

## Taylor County

County 's Website: [www.taylorcountytexas.org](http://www.taylorcountytexas.org)

Sheriff	674-1300
American Red Cross Chapter	677-2622
Environmental Enforcement	738-8540



**American  
Red Cross**

## State of Texas

State's Website: [www.state.tx.us](http://www.state.tx.us)

Animal Health Commission	1 (800) 550-8242
Consumer Protection Hotline	1 (800) 621-0508
Department of State Health Commission	1 (888) 963-7111
Department of Aging & Disability Services	1 (512) 438-3011
Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities	1 (800) 262-0334
Poison Control	1 (800) 222-1222
Department of Public Safety	1 (512) 424-2000
Department of Human Services	1 (888) 834-7406
Public Utilities Commission	1 (888) 782-8477
DARS Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services	1 (512) 451-8494

## Sign Language Interpreter Agency — Interpreters for the Deaf

State Interpreter Agencies' Website: [deafnetwork.com/wordpress/service](http://deafnetwork.com/wordpress/service)

**West Texas Services for the Deaf: 325-669-4971 (Abilene area)**

Your Communication Bridge, LLC 432-270-5116 (Big Spring area)

Talking Hands Interpreting 940-210-8412 (Wichita Falls area)



# Volunteerism

**Emergency Management partners with numerous agencies to assist in the event of a natural or man-made disaster. If you are a member of the following organizations, you may already be assisting Emergency management according to the mission of the volunteer agency:**

American Red Cross

Goodwill

United Way

Salvation Army

City of Abilene Community Services ... and others

Big Country VOAD

Community Volunteer

Food Bank of West Central Texas

Texas Baptist Men



**In the event of a large scale emergency, large numbers of volunteers will be needed to assist with the response and recovery from the emergency. The Office of Emergency Management offers training and can provide information on various volunteer opportunities.**

**If you or your organization are interested in assisting the community in the event of a disaster, please contact the Office of Emergency Management Volunteer Coordinator for additional information.**

## Contact Information:

**City of Abilene — Office of Emergency Management**

**Emergency Management Coordinator**



**PO Box 60  
Abilene, Texas 79604**

**(325) 676-6683**



**Or visit our website at: City of Abilene Office of Emergency Management**

**[Abilenetx.com/EOC/](http://Abilenetx.com/EOC/)**







**Call 2-1-1 for Free and Confidential Help 24 hours a day!**

**2-1-1** is a three-digit easy to remember calling code for free and confidential, non-emergency access to health and human services as well as government information and referral, similar to the way 9-1-1 is accessed for emergencies.

Residents in the top 20 counties of the West Central Texas can dial **2-1-1** to be connected with the West Central Texas area's **2-1-1 Texas** located at the United Way of Abilene's community service office, at 240 Cypress Street in Abilene. At this time, most cell phone users may need to dial (325) 673-8211 to access services.

**2-1-1 Texas** maintains comprehensive database of resources in the Panhandle, including federal, state, local government agencies, community-based organizations and non-profit agencies. Information and Referral Specialists will link people with services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Information and referral services (I & R) link people with services. I & R Specialists assess callers' needs, determine which service providers can best assist the caller, and then refer the callers to localized programs and services. Examples of the types of health and human services information and referrals available through **2-1-1 Texas** include:

- Basic Human Needs: food, clothing, shelter
- Physical and mental health: medical care, crisis intervention, counseling, support groups
- Employment Assistance: job training, transportation assistance, education programs
- Child Care: child care centers, child care homes: (both registered and licensed centers and homes)
- Support for Older Americans and persons with Disabilities: adult day care, congregate meals, Meals on Wheels, respite care, home health care, transportation

For more information on **2-1-1 Texas**, please contact:

United Way of Abilene

240 Cypress Street

Abilene, Texas 79601

(325) 676-7065 or dial **2-1-1**



**United Way of Abilene**



## LOCAL EMERGENCY CONTACTS

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## NOTES

[illegible]

## NOTES

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# A list of key phrases on an accommodation card for emergency personnel.

Your card might say:

- I speak American Sign Language (ASL) and need an ASL interpreter.
- I need an interpreter. (Be sure to provide interpreter agency's phone number)
- If you make an announcement, please write it down or sign for me.
- I need announcements written or signed in ASL.
- I cannot hear sirens or alarms.
- I have allergies: \_\_\_\_\_ (please specify)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Create phrases on your own to meet your specified needs, so you can communicate with emergency personnel more quickly.**



# **More information on Deaf and Hard of Hearing people**

## **For Federal, State, Local, Private agencies**

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### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

An ADA Guide for Local Governments

Making Community Emergency Preparedness and  
Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities

**<http://www.ada.gov/emergencyprepguide.htm>**

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### **The ADA and City Governments: Common Problems**

**<http://www.ada.gov/comprob.htm>**

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Ready Or Not? Have A Plan. Texas Department of State Health Services

**<http://www.texasprepares.org/English/PSAs.htm#video>** 

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Basic Information regarding Emergency Preparedness for Texans who are Deaf

**<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/asl>** 

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### **ADA: Effective Communication**

**<http://www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>**

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### **Effective Communications Tool Kit (page 64-68)**

Texas Department of Public Safety  
Texas Emergency Management Website

**<https://www.preparingtexas.org/Preparedness.aspx>**

Effective Communications Tools Kit is listed on left side

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### **The ADA and Emergency Shelters: Access for All in Emergencies and Disasters**

**<http://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/chap7shelterprog.htm>**

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### **National Organization on Disability: Emergency Preparedness**

**[http://nod.org/disability\\_resources/  
emergency\\_preparedness\\_for\\_persons\\_with\\_disabilities](http://nod.org/disability_resources/emergency_preparedness_for_persons_with_disabilities)**

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# Booklet Development

This guide has been designed and prepared for direct dissemination to the general public, especially to the people who are deaf or hard of hearing of this nation, and is based on the emergency education and awareness information. This public information booklet has been adapted from “Disaster: A Citizen’s Guide for Preparedness” guide produced by the Amarillo/Potter/Randall Department of Emergency Management. This material is based on “Deaf/Hard of Hearing” and other disabilities approach, and is typically applicable to preparedness in all of the emergency situations represented. This publication is, however, too brief to cover every factor, situation, or difference in environmental features that might be of interest. To help you explore your interest further, additional source of information have been included. All information pertaining in this booklet is in reference to the websites. Materials were adapted from the list below:

- Disaster: A Citizen’s Guide for Preparedness, Amarillo/Potter/Randall Department of Emergency Management. Emergency Management Consulting Services, Amarillo, Texas.
- Hazard Mitigation Planning provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. [Ready.Gov](#)
- FEMA for People with Disabilities. [Fema.gov/about/odc/](#)
- Department of Homeland Security. [DHS.gov](#)
- National Organization on Disability Emergency Preparedness Initiative. [Nod.org/disability\\_resources/emergency\\_preparedness\\_for\\_persons\\_with\\_disabilities/](#)
- Ready Or Not? Have A Plan. Texas Department of State Health Services. [Texasprepares.org/](#)
- State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR). Texas Department of Public Safety. [Txdps.state.tx.us/dem/stear/public.htm](#)
- Texas Division of Emergency Management. Texas Department of Public Safety. [Txdps.state.tx.us/dem/Preparedness/](#)
- Preparedness. TDEM. Texas Department of Public Safety. [Preparingtexas.org/](#)
- Effective Communication Toolkit. Texas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management. State of Texas. May 2015.
- Accessible emergency notification, response, and recovery. Emergency Preparedness. National Association of the Deaf. [Nad.org/issues/emergency-preparedness](#)
- Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. [Dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/index.shtml](#)
- City of Abilene. [Abilenetx.com](#)
- City of Abilene Emergency Management. [Abilenetx.com/EOC/](#)
- Be Informed. Public Health Emergencies. Wichita Falls-Wichita County Public Health District
- Plan & Prepare. America Red Cross. [Redcross.org/prepare](#)
- 2-1-1 Texas. Texas Health and Humans Service Commission. [211texas.org](#)
- CODERED. ECN Emergency Communication Network [ecnetwork.com/community-notification/](#)

For more information, please contact the Abilene/Taylor County Office of Emergency Management at (325) 676-6683.



FEMA



Office of Emergency Management

1-325-676-6683

Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District

1-325-692-5600

**January 2016**